

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 OIC-01 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01

INR-05 RSC-01 ARA-06 EUR-08 AF-04 EA-06 NEA-06 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /067 W

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R 131410Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8959

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, FAO, UNGA

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: CONTROVERSY ABOUT SECRETARIAT CONTROL

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO BUTTON-HOLED FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL BOERMA BRIEFLY AFTER HIS OPENING ADDRESS TO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON RICE JANUARY 13, AND BOERMA RECOUNTED HIS VERSION OF HIS MEETING WITH UN SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM JANUARY 9 AND 10 ON SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. WALDHEIM HAD SUGGESTED THAT STRONG OF UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM HEAD SECRETARIAT FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND BOERMA OPPOSED. BOERMA SAYS NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE OF JANUARY 12 (PAPER NOT AVAILABLE HERE) REPORTING HIS OPPOSITION TO STRONG IS NOT PRECISELY CORRECT: BOERMA SAYS HE OPPOSED STRONG NOT ON PERSONAL GROUNDS BUT ON GROUNDS THAT HE IS OF TOO HIGH RANK. COMPROMISE WAS REACHED ON NAMING HANNAH TO ACT IN CHARGE OF SECRETARIAT FOR SIX MONTHS, WHICH IS QUITE ACCEPTABLE TO BOERMA.

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3. BOERMA INSISTED THAT SECRETARIAT WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF
FAO IN ROME SHOULD BE GENERALLY SUBORDINATE TO HIM. WALDHEIM
REFUSED, AND NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THIS POINT. BOERMA
TOLD WALDHEIM HE WOULD HAVE TO TAKE ISSUE TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
OF FAO.

4. BOERMA REPORTS THAT MCNAMARA SUGGESTED CONSULTATIVE GROUP
IN WASHINGTON BE CHAIRED BY AMBASSADOR EDWIN M. MARTIN. BOERMA
SAYS ALTERNATE WHO MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IS MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO
OF VENEZUELA.

5. BOERMA IS CALLING PERMANENT COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TOGETHER
FRIDAY TO TALK TO THEM ABOUT HIS DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK. THIS
PRESUMABLY WILL BE FIRST STEP IN HIS TAKING SECRETARIAT ISSUE
TO MEMBER COUNTRIES OF FAO. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL
RAISE ISSUE FORMALLY IN SPECIAL SESSION OF FAO COUNCIL IN MARCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNWFC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME00429
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750012-0837
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750157/aaaabxse.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: CONTROVERSY ABOUT SECRETARIAT CONTROL
TAGS: AORG, PORG, FAO, UNGA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006